

Studies on Homalomeneae (Araceae) of Sumatera V – *Homalomena squamis-draconis*, a new species for the Chamaecladon Clade

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ABSTRACT

Homalomena squamis-draconis, a highly ornamental new dwarf species of Chamaecladon clade, is described and illustrated from Sumatera.

KEY WORDS

Indonesia, granite,

INTRODUCTION

Species of *Homalomena* Chamaecladon Clade (Wong & al. 2013) are particularly diverse on Sumatera where, furthermore,

there occur several species made highly ornamental by virtue of elaborately embellished leaf blades and petioles (Boyce & Wong 2016). In recent years a significant increase in interest in ornamental Asian aroids has resulted in many species being collected and brought into cultivation. Given the richness of the aroid flora of Asia it is unsurprising that a significant percentage of the plants being introduced has turned out to be taxonomically novel. One such species, traded commercially under the name ‘Dragon Scales’ is here described as new to science.

Dimensions in the descriptions are derived from fertile (i.e., mature) plants. Seedlings have overall smaller measurements.

Homalomena squamis-draconis S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce, **sp. nov.**

Holotype: Indonesia, Sumatera, locality withheld for conservation purposes, *Keisuke Hase AR-5343* (holotype ANDA!; isotype SAR – alcohol!). **Figure 1.**

Diagnosis

Homalomena squamis-draconis is most similar to *H. mobula* differing by the smaller (6–10 × 2.5–5 cm vs ca 20 cm × 7 cm), tessellate-veined (vs rugose) leaf blades, crispulate-crested petioles and primary veins (vs petioles and major veins rugose), the shorter (1.5 cm vs 2 cm long) spathe with bright green (vs reddish brown) exterior and shiny bright green (vs shiny deep red)

interior, by the shorter (1 cm vs 2 cm), stipitate (vs sessile) spadix, pale green (vs greenish with very dense reddish speckling) ovaries, and stoutly-conic blunt (vs slender tapering-conic, pointed) staminate flower zone.

Description

Lithophytic rosette-forming herb to ca 7 cm tall and 15 cm across. **Stem** highly condensed, in older plants epigeal and creeping to ca 3 cm, ca 1 cm diam., modules pleionanthic; internodes obscured by overlapping leaf bases, not conspicuous. **Leaves** several together (up to ca 9 per stem); **petiole** stoutly sub-terete, dorsally narrowly canaliculate, 1.5–3 cm long, ca 4 mm diam., ca 1/4 length of blade, sheathing in lower 1/3, coarsely glandular-asperous in sinuous crests, pale green; **petiolar sheath** adnate to petiole, 1–1.5 cm long, wings triangular spread wide, reflexing in older petioles, with margins somewhat undulate-hyaline, greenish white; **blade** elliptic-lanceolate to oblong elliptic, stiffly leathery, 6–10 cm long × 2.5–5 cm wide, bright medium to deep green adaxially, somewhat crystalline pale green abaxially, base rounded, truncate to broadly cuneate, tip acute and apiculate for ca 1 mm, margins with a ca 1 mm wide crispulate-undulate hyaline margin; **midrib** slightly impressed adaxially, prominently raised abaxially and there ornamented with slightly sinuous crystalline-textured longitudinal crispulate crests; **primary lateral** veins ca 5 on each side diverging at ca 45° from midrib, impressed adaxially, raised and glandular-